

Citation of Merit award to his 1998 Jinx Hazel Arts Citizen of the Year Award, a Northern Virginia Community Foundation Founders Award in 1997 and his designation in 1996 as the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year. He has served for an unprecedented third term as Chairman of the Board of the Arts Council and is on the Board of Directors for numerous arts and educational organizations. In addition, he has supported many county-wide and national human service causes such as the American Heart Association, United Way, the Hospice of Northern Virginia, the Women's Center, the Adopt a Family Program, and Ronald McDonald House to name only a few.

Mr. Speaker, we thank you for this opportunity to recognize such valuable members of the Northern Virginia community. We wish each of them the best in their endeavors to improve the lives of our constituents. Their life time dedication to volunteering is truly an inspiration to us all.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM L. CULVER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize a fellow Missourian, Mr. William L. Culver, for his contributions to culture and history. In February 1998, Bill Culver participated in a C-SPAN contest that outlined the travels of Alexis de Tocqueville. He captured in art the essence of Tocqueville's travels in search of American democracy and was recognized as a top 10 national prize winner. He is an avid C-SPAN watcher and has faithfully shared his caricatures with this organization.

Bill Culver has been interested in art since he was a small child. He grew up in Northwest Missouri, attended the University of Missouri Law School, and successfully practiced law for many years. Bill now spends time doing what he enjoys most—writing and illustrating children's books. Also, he teaches part time at Columbia College at the Lake of the Ozarks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bill Culver on this award and wish him good luck as he continues to illustrate art and developing legacies for future generations to enjoy.

PUT WORDS INTO ACTION: GIVE A TAX BREAK TO STAY-AT-HOME PARENTS

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 1998

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last month, Congress voted on Daycare Fairness for Stay-at-Home Parents, a resolution recognizing the importance of stay-at-home parents and the care they give their kids.

I supported H. Con. Res. 202, because I believe that the Federal Government has for too long discriminated against parents who choose to stay at home to raise their children. We as lawmakers need to recognize the sac-

rifices these parents make to be at home with their kids, and encourage the kind of care that only they can give.

But a sense of Congress means nothing unless we back these words up with action. We should pass legislation that brings real tax relief to parents who stay at home.

The keystone of our child care effort should be to reverse current federal tax policy which effectively discriminates against parents who choose to stay at home to raise their children.

That is why I have introduced legislation that will universalize the Dependent Care Tax Credit (DCTC) to give stay-at-home parents tax relief equal to that received by parents who choose to leave their children with an outside caregiver. Under my bill, H.R. 3176, parents who stay at home with their pre-school age children will receive credit on \$2,400 of expenses for one child, and \$4,800 for two or more children.

The Dependent Care Tax Credit (DCTC) is currently available only to working parents for expenses related to non-parental child care. In effect, the DCTC subsidizes parents to leave their children in the care of others. In my view, this is a fundamentally misguided and harmful policy.

While I supported H. Con. Res. 202, parents who sacrifice a second income to stay at home with their kids deserve more than just a pat on the back. Let's show stay-at-home parents that we mean what we say. Support extending the Dependent Care Tax Credit. America's families and our children will be better off for it.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IDENTITY PIRACY ACT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 30, 1998

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, last week I introduced the Identity Piracy Act to give the Secret Service and prosecutors more crime fighting tools to protect victims of identity fraud. Under current law, the attempt to defraud an individual by using his or her identity is not by itself a punishable offense. The Identity Piracy Act (IPA) closes this loophole, and makes the theft of one's identity a specific category of crime punishable under federal law.

In order to prosecute someone for identity fraud under current law, a person must commit another type of fraud such as wire, bank, or credit card fraud. The IPA would make the act of obtaining someone's identity with the intent to defraud a person or entity a federal crime. Punishment would include up to twenty years in prison, additional time for a conspiracy to commit identity fraud, fines, and restitution.

Imagine learning that someone has stolen your name and social security number and used an out-of-state address to apply for nearly 15 credit cards. Imagine that you didn't learn about the theft of your identity until the credit card company calls to check with you about \$2,500 worth of charges you didn't make. Under current law, only the theft of the \$2,500, and not the assumption of your identity, is punishable by federal law. The Identity Piracy Act (IPA) closes this loophole, and makes the theft of one's identity a crime.

The provisions of the IPA are similar to those of the Senate Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act. However, the IPA contains language endorsed by the Secret Service that clearly defines identity fraud as a federal crime and expands penalties for this crime.

Like the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act (ITADA), the IPA would give law enforcement officials more crime fighting tools to protect victims of identity fraud. It would also enable victims to seek financial restitution from identity fraud thieves, and give law enforcement officials expanded authority to seize the equipment that enable thieves to steal the identities of consumers.

Unlike other proposed identity fraud legislation, the IPA clearly defines the threshold that makes identity fraud a federal crime. The threshold provisions enable prosecutors to determine what actions trigger a federal identity fraud crime.

The IPA eliminates the dollar threshold for making identity fraud a federal crime. Under ITADA, a person must use an individual's identity to steal at least \$1,000 to make this type of fraud a federal crime.

The IPA would make taking the identity of both a person or an entity, such as a corporation, a federal crime. ITADA only covers theft from a person, not an entity.

The IPA refines what a court may provide in restitution to the victim of identity fraud. Under the IPA the court can provide restitution for attorney fees, to clear credit or debt history problems, and to clear debts and liens against a person. ITADA does not clearly define the restitution that can be provided.

The IPA refines the punishment for conspiracy to commit identity fraud. ITADA does not clearly define the punishment for conspiracy. IPA would increase the penalty for conspiracy by half of the maximum sentence for identity fraud.

The IPA creates definitions for what constitutes: a "means of identification," a "personal identifier," an "identification device," and "personal information or data." For example, use of data such as a fingerprint, a voice print, and a retina or iris image are identifiers that if used by an identity thief would be punishable under this law.

Federal law enforcement officials need to be able to keep up with changes in technology that have increased the number of identity fraud cases, in order to protect victims. We need to protect the rights of consumers like my constituent, Denise, whose case involving the theft of \$2,500 I described earlier. Denise has had to fight to clear her credit record of illegal charges. Since the initial theft, Denise learned that the identity thieves obtained credit in her name to lease housing. Landlords trying to collect from their tenants in out-of-state courts have led to a credit reporting nightmare for Denise.

The IPA would enable the Secret Service to pursue Denise's identity thieves. Under this bill, if these thieves are caught, they can be arrested on identity theft charges alone, their equipment for obtaining Denise's identity can be confiscated, and the courts can provide Denise the restitution she needs to clear her credit.

The IPA also gives people like my constituent, Denise, the assurance that law enforcement officials will have all of the tools they need to combat identity theft. I am sure that